

# Washington Update

R. D. Reynnells<sup>1</sup>

*United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research,  
Education and Extension Service, Plant and Animal Systems, 800 9th Street, SW,  
Room 3130 Waterfront Center, Washington DC 20250-2220*

---

**Primary Audience:** Industry and Extension Personnel, Research and Teaching Faculty, Support Personnel

---

## SUMMARY

Opportunities and change continue to occur at an accelerating rate. The exotic Newcastle disease (END) crisis in the traditional commercial industry led to a related problem for game bird producers due to confusion in defining a game bird, which is also a commercial venture. Time spent planning rather than reacting to situations is often a luxury but must be moved to a higher priority. One example is the Triennial Extension Workshop, which is proposed to become a biennial event. We continue to develop and implement innovative programs based on relevance to animal agriculture and societal requirements. As a team, we have achieved an excellent synergy and impressive results through our cooperation and networking. A special award is provided to an extension person each year to ensure contributions are recognized that might otherwise be overlooked. The Texture Technologies Corporation Support Personnel Award is new this year and recognizes the essential contributions of farm, laboratory, and other personnel. Also, the American Poultry Historical Society (APHS) continues to recognize career contributions to the poultry system through the Hall of Fame. As always, anyone wishing to be part of program planning and development is welcome. If you are not called, take the initiative and volunteer.

**Key words:** recognition award, multistate research committee, extension meeting, support personnel award, game bird terminology

2004 J. Appl. Poult. Res. 13:129–135

## INTRODUCTION

This report contains a wide range of information that may be of interest to you. The purpose of this update is to provide a short summary of events and opportunities of interest to extension and other poultry system personnel, particularly those that interact with the industry. These personnel must stay abreast of numerous environmental, animal welfare, outreach, grants, professional, and societal issues. If you find an item that would be beneficial to personnel in other departments or commodity areas, please pass it along.

## PERSONNEL

### *Special Recognition Award*

The Annual Extension Special Recognition Award was initiated to acknowledge the extra efforts of extension personnel in national programs. The 2003 award is presented to June deGraft-Hanson, West Virginia University. June has made numerous contributions over the years to many extension-related programs, such as food safety, waste management and composting, and biosecurity. June has also made significant contributions to the National Poultry Waste

---

<sup>1</sup>To whom correspondence should be addressed: rreynnells@csrees.usda.gov.

Management Symposium (NPWMS) and the National Extension Workshop. Many other faculty have made significant contributions to national and regional programs, and these efforts are also greatly appreciated.

### ***USDA and Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service***

Ralph Otto is the new Deputy Administrator for Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Plant and Animal Systems. Ralph was the Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources and Environment before being the leader of Plant and Animal Systems. Ralph has been very supportive of innovative agricultural programming.

Robert Smith has been hired as the CSREES National Program Leader for Agricultural Homeland Security. He was with the Pennsylvania State University before coming to CSREES in January.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### ***Swine Well-Being Project***

The National Swine Housing and Well-Being Symposium and educational and training project will be completed this summer. The extensive literature review [Cindy Smith, Animal Welfare Information Center, National Agriculture Library, Beltsville, MD (AWIC)] on swine housing and well-being and the proceedings from the symposium from June 2002 will be completed. The video and digital video disc (Ed Pajor, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN) will be completed soon and will be added to the educational package that will contain the bibliography and proceedings on a compact disc (CD). All will be provided to the Land Grant University (LGU) system, commodity and activist organizations, and farmers. Funds were made available for the USDA CSREES and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to provide assistance to the animal industries in the area of animal well-being. The USDA ARS has used their funds for swine housing research at their facilities and at several universities. The CSREES educational efforts are to complement these ARS research activities. Purdue University is the lead university for these CSREES programs.

### ***Department Reviews and Multistate Research Committees***

Department reviews are an important part of the job and are assigned through the CSREES system. The USDA and CSREES liaison responsibilities are with several multistate research projects: 1. NCR-131, Committee on Animal Care and Behavior; 2. S-292, The Poultry Food System: A Farm to Table Model; 3. W-195, Poultry Production, Processing and Water Quality; 4. NE-127, Biophysical Models for Poultry Production Systems; and 5. WCC-204, Animal Bioethics.

The WCC-059 regional research committee has been authorized as a full research committee, with the designation change to W-195. In the fall of 2004, they plan to meet in Holland and have a workshop with peers from Europe.

The NCR-131 (Animal Care and Behavior) met June 10, in Austin, Texas, as did the WCC-204 (Animal Bioethics) on June 11 to 12, in conjunction with the joint Agriculture Food and Human Value Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society Conference (June 12 to 15). The writing committee for the NCR-131 met on June 9, to revise the project renewal documentation to make the NCR-131 a full research committee. This essential activity will stimulate greater interest in committee membership. This same upgrading is encouraged for WCC-204. The 2003 PSA Symposium, "Bioethical Considerations in Animal Production" is coordinated by the WCC-204 multistate research committee and complements similar previous activities at the American Society of Animal Science. These important committees provide opportunities to be involved in new societal issues and to provide scientific responses to some of these issues that will have tremendous impact on all of food animal production in the future. It would be beneficial to your state's industries and your department if you would consider participation on these committees.

## **MEETINGS**

### ***Southern Region Poultry Extension Workshop (Triennial)***

We have had some questions and concerns about the timing of the triennial meeting. We will discuss modifying the schedule during the

Extension Luncheon at the Poultry Science Association (PSA) Annual Meeting. The suggestion was made to schedule it so there was no conflict with the NPWMS. Problems that initiated this discussion are the large number of state personnel that are active in both programs and the limited amount of travel funds. The suggestion is to schedule the Triennial every 4 yr, on odd-numbered years, which means the meeting scheduled for 2004 would move to 2005 and then 2009. Please attend the Extension Luncheon to voice your opinion about this proposed change.

Texas will be the site of the 2004 or 2005 Southern Region Poultry Extension Workshop, which now represents all extension regions. The location will be in Arlington, Texas, at the La Quinta Hotel. Look for notification of dates and local arrangements. The Triennial workshop Chair is John Carey (Texas), and Ken Anderson (North Carolina) is the Vice Chair. Michael Ouart continues as the southern region's administrative liaison. *Please provide your program format and speaker and topic ideas to John or Ken.*

Unless someone else volunteers, Ken Anderson will provide an evaluation for the next workshop. All states are requested to provide a state report for the proceedings. Frank Jones will lead the sponsorship committee, but he needs others to help him with this task. Please contact Frank directly and copy John Carey. Also contact John to volunteer to help on a specific committee.

An organizational meeting was held at the US Poultry and Egg Association International Exposition at the World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in January, 2004. Suggested representatives from the other regions are Midwest: Kevin Roberson, Michigan; Northeast: Mike Darre, Connecticut; and West: Doug Kuney, California. In the past, each state provided a voting representative or official contact for the planning meeting. The feeling of the group was that this level of formality was outdated and that each state or region should ensure a person is at the planning meeting, but everyone is welcome to participate.

### **NPWMS**

The 2004 NPWMS will be held October 25 to 27 in Memphis, Tennessee. A transition team has successfully transferred coordination responsibilities to LGU personnel. Mike Hulet

(Pennsylvania) is the coordinator for 2004, with Susan Watkins coordinator in 2006. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association has again volunteered to assist the organizing committee by being responsible for the financial aspects of the program. We could not have been as successful in our several environmental protection programs over the years if not for the efforts of Wanda Linker, with support by Johnny Adams at the Association. It is essential for the success of this meeting to have reliable volunteers to head the different committees and personnel to work on the committees. Please Contact Mike Hulet (814-863-8934; mrh4@psu.edu) to help on a committee.

### **PSA National Extension Workshop**

The 2003 PSA Extension Workshop Chair is June deGraft-Hanson, West Virginia University. Editors of the proceedings are Bill Dozier (Georgia) and John Blake (Alabama). The proceedings have been published as an on-site handout for several years because they have been considered a valuable reference, which also documents the high quality of our workshops and numerous regional and national programs. This year, the proceedings will also be published in the *Journal of Applied Poultry Research*. We continue to depend on James Rock, retired from the University of Connecticut, who has provided evaluation leadership for many years. Other committee members for 2003 are Diane Spratt, (Canada), Scott Beyer (Kansas), Barry Lott (Mississippi), Curtis Novak (Virginia), Lynette Ward (Delaware), Ken Maciorowski (Deleware), Hart Bailey (Mississippi), Ralph Stonerock (Ohio), and Brian Fairchild (Georgia). In 2004, Matthew Burnham (Texas) and Theresia Lavergne (Louisiana) will join the committee, and others are welcome. On behalf of the attendees and other PSA members, I want to express to committee members our appreciation for the time and expertise they have provided to make our program relevant and a success. Please see me if you want to work on this committee.

The Extension Workshop has been highly successful since we started it in 1987 (Don Bell's suggestion). The separate and distinct PSA Extension Committee has provided several significant programs to PSA members over the years. This is our final year as a separate entity and is

considered a transitional year. The Extension Workshop will continue to be held before the start of the PSA annual meeting but will now be an official part of the meeting. The Extension Workshop will become part of the Extension Committee for oversight but will continue to be organized by 5 to 10 or more official and some unofficial volunteers, with the Chair selected in the traditional manner. The Extension Committee is organized by members assigned by the Board of Directors and may occasionally be given a charge by the Board of Directors, or they may request permission to conduct a special program. The Chair of the PSA Extension Committee will be an ad hoc member of the Extension Workshop Organizing Committee and provide insight regarding the PSA Extension Committee's project and its ideas for the Workshop. The Extension Committee will also select the PSA Extension Award recipient.

### ***Future Trends in Animal Agriculture***

The purpose of the Future Trends in Animal Agriculture (FTAA) is to create opportunities for positive dialogue between industry and animal activists so that common ground may be identified and important issues addressed. Discussions are to promote progress in identifying ways to improve animal well-being, which may also result in a balanced and comprehensive approach to dealing with related societal issues. These issues include environmental, food safety, and rural infrastructure concerns.

After a series of 1-d programs in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the FTAA efforts were discontinued. A committee composed of industry, activist group, government, and specialty market representatives recently renewed the concept and programs of the FTAA. They created a successful symposium in September 2002 in Washington, DC. The title was "Current Status and Future Expectations of Food Animal Production Standards: Optimizing Animal Well-Being and Social Responsibility." They held a roundtable discussion on May 28, 2003, in Washington DC, "The Science and Ethics Behind Animal Well-Being Assessments," suggested by Lew Smith, USDA ARS and developed by Don Lay, USDA ARS. The FTAA is in the process of developing a symposium for September 17, 2003, "Sharing Costs of Changes

in Food Animal Production: Producers, Consumers, Society, and the Environment." The meeting is open to the public, with the primary audience being congressional staff personnel and members and agency decision makers. The intent is for industry and activist group personnel to better understand the complexity of these issues. The meeting will hopefully result in enhanced respect for diverse opinions and the goal of animal well-being rather than organizational agenda well-being.

### ***US Poultry and Egg Association International Exposition***

We hold several organizational meetings at the US Poultry and Egg Association (USPEA) meeting in January each year and appreciate their continued support. These include the NPWMS, National Poultry Infobase (NPI), National Egg Quality School, National Egg Products School, several multistate research committees, PSA Extension Workshop, PSA Extension Committee, Triennial Poultry Extension Workshop, and the American Poultry Historical Society (APHS) Annual Meeting. Contact me if you want to schedule a meeting so it does not conflict with one of these meetings or contact the USPEA directly. Everyone is welcome in most of these meetings, particularly the APHS, NPWMS, NPI, and Extension committees. For other meetings, contact the Chairperson. The schedule will be available through e-mail and at the registration desk for the Southern Poultry Science Society Annual Meeting.

## **USDA-RELATED INFORMATION**

### ***Grants***

The new procedures to follow when applying for grants and release of grant information from CSREES, with application forms and deadlines, can be found at: <http://www.ree.usda.gov/funding-opportunities/requestforapplications>. If you cannot directly access the files, use of an abbreviated address may prove successful.

### ***Organic***

Organic regulations are in place. Many organic, natural, or "sustainable" farmers have complained the LGU system has provided essentially zero research or management assistance.

Their complaint is that the LGU focus on making big farms and companies bigger, with maximum profit and least cost production the overriding goal. To many, it would seem appropriate for LGU administrators and personnel to find innovative ways to assist these taxpayers who are attempting to make a living in these niche markets. To view the regulations, access the Internet site: [www.usda/nop](http://www.usda/nop).

### ***Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations***

The December 15, 2002, final rule revised and clarified the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulatory requirements for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) under the Clean Water Act. The rule revised 2 sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements for CAFO (section 122), and the Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards (ELG) for CAFO (section 412). The rule established a mandatory duty for all CAFO to apply for an NPDES permit and to develop and implement a nutrient management plan. The ELG established performance expectations for existing and new sources to ensure appropriate storage of manure, as well as expectations for proper land application practices at the CAFO. For more information, contact: Gregory Beatty, US EPA, Office of Water, Office of Wastewater Management (4203M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20406 (telephone: 202.564.0724) for information pertaining to the NPDES Regulations (Part 122); or Paul Shriner, US EPA, Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology (4303T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 for information pertaining to the ELG.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is executing a plan of action to inform livestock and poultry producers of the financial and technical assistance that is available to them, and ensuring that technical service providers and NRCS technicians are aware of the needs of these producers. The NRCS technicians and the technical service providers are being trained and equipped to provide technical assistance in the development of operation-specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) that include nutrient management plans that comply

with the CAFO rule. Also, through the 2002 Farm Bill, NRCS plans to reserve at least 60% of Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to assist livestock and poultry operations. All this is being fueled by an outreach campaign to provide information to all stakeholders and by gearing up with resources to respond to the producers' needs.

## **PROJECTS**

### ***NPI***

The NPI continues to languish due to insufficient enthusiasm on the part of poultry system personnel. Faculty members and industry or government personnel must step forward at this time and get their articles submitted. Please see Jacquie Jacob (Minnesota; 612.624.2766) or Nick Zimmermann (Maryland; 301.405.2805) for details. We need to finish this project and need your help. After the deadline of August 1, 2003, the CD will be produced, the project completed, and CD distributed to cosponsors. A second edition will primarily be dependent on industry interest. Poultry will continue to be represented on the Board of Directors of the Agriculture Databases for Decision Support (ADDS, Inc.).

### ***Distribution Lists and Subscription***

#### ***E-mail Lists***

I will continue to rely on the e-mail as the primary system to get information to you. Due to computer changes, the distribution lists USDA-poultry, USDA-rabbit, 4-H-poultry, or 4-H-rabbit mail groups are discontinued. Tell me if you want to be added to other lists, such as animal rights and welfare, agro-terrorism, game birds, food safety, and those related to the multistate research projects. Contact me if you think an additional listing would be beneficial to poultry professionals.

### ***Poultry Science Resource List***

Publication of the Poultry Science Resource List has been taken over by the PSA and updated on a periodic basis. The last edition was completed in 2001, and so it is time to start an update. To ensure its continued availability, it is important to inform PSA Board of Director members that we appreciate their efforts in con-



tinuing this project. A perpetual problem is having the request for updated information not returned or not returned in a timely manner. If you have information that you want included that will help your program, or when you find errors, please let us know at that time. Send the information to Susan Pollock at PSA Headquarters or to me.

### ***PSA 2003 Texture Technologies Corporation Support Personnel Award***

The purpose of the Support Personnel Award is to acknowledge the long-term contributions by support personnel and to recognize their work as being critical to the ability of faculty to receive the awards for which they are eligible to compete. This award is the only professional level award of its kind and supplements any existing university awards. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Texture Technologies Corporation.

Elizabeth M. Hirschler was selected as the first recipient of the Support Personnel Award for her exceptional contributions to the success of Alan Sams and others at Texas A&M University. The award will consist of a check for \$500 and an appropriate commemorative plaque, inscribed with the person's name and the statement: "For outstanding contributions to the Poultry Science Department, Texas A&M University and the Poultry Science Association in support of scientific and educational objectives."

There were 10 persons nominated for the 2003 award, having a wide range of backgrounds. Fourteen persons reviewed the nomination packages, with individuals asked to recuse themselves if any potential for conflict of interest existed or could be inferred. The 10 highest scores were averaged to determine the award recipient. Nomination packages were outstanding, with the evaluation scores being very close for all nominees. Nominators are highly encouraged to resubmit their packages for 2004. Others in industry, government, and universities are encouraged to nominate their personnel. The bottom line is that faculty members and other researchers are extremely fortunate to have such high-quality personnel supporting their programs. As was the premise for initiating this award, many exceptional people are working in our system and should be recognized for their

contributions. The nomination packages proved this theory to be true.

## **INDUSTRY AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### ***North American Game Bird Association***

The recent exotic Newcastle Disease (END) problem in California and in other western and southern states has become a potentially large public relations problem to game bird producers in addition to the potential for disease transfer to their birds. Some persons in positions of authority or influence are using the term game bird(s) or game bird producer to mean fighting cock(s) or fighting cock producer. This is a problem for several reasons. One, it is illegal to fight roosters in most states. Two, animal activists are seen as attempting to eliminate even the possession of game fowl (fighting cocks) as a legal activity. Three, various activist groups are attempting to eliminate hunting as a legal activity through several means, such as restrictive hunting regulations or gun control and pricing ammunition out of the economic range of most people. Fourth, the terminology error may just be a stroke of luck for the antihunting groups. By combining the terms for fighting stock (game fowl, fighting cocks, gamecocks) with game birds (e.g., pheasant, quail, partridge), the latter are tainted with the entities having a negative public perception. The game bird industry could then be more easily be subject to legal manipulations or even erroneously included in regulations unrelated to the END disaster. Also, incorrect identification of diseased birds (e.g., turkey vs. chicken vs. pheasant) means the wrong flocks could be targeted by government entities attempting to control the END or other contagious disease. Efforts are underway by the North American Game Bird Association to correct this situation.

According to *Webster's Universal College Dictionary*, game bird is any bird *hunted* chiefly for sport, as a quail or pheasant, especially such a bird protected by game laws. A gamecock is a rooster of a fighting breed or one bred and trained for fighting. Numerous textbooks and other sources refer to game birds as separate and distinct from game fowl or fighting cocks. It is abundantly clear that the term game bird is intended to refer to birds of wild origin, whether

or not they are raised in captivity and released for hunting, or meat purposes. It is equally clear that common usage of the term gamecock, game fowl, or fighting cock are equivalent terms. They should not be confused with the term game bird. The term fowl is generic but usually refers to domesticated chickens. When the term refers to pheasants, waterfowl, or other game birds, it is in the most general manner. Thus, there is ample evidence to indicate that to confuse the terms game bird with gamecock, fighting cocks, or game fowl is inaccurate. It is also potentially very damaging to the game bird industry.

### ***American Poultry Historical Society***

The American Poultry Historical Society (APHS) will hold their summer meeting at the PSA Annual Meeting. The society continues to stress the need for new members and offers both young and ancient persons opportunities to appreciate the vibrant history of our poultry system. Note that a lifetime membership is currently still only \$50.

The Hall of Fame Award program is chaired by Nick Zimmermann, University of Maryland (301-405-2805). The deadline for submitting nomination packets is September 1, 2003. It is very important that you as a member or non-member nominate a deserving person that has been instrumental in the evolution of the poultry

system for this prestigious award. The APHS recognizes the important role the National Agricultural Library plays in housing the APHS Hall of Fame and greatly appreciates their generous support. The Hall of Fame nominations are coming up, and it is important for poultry system (industry, university, government) leaders be recognized through the nomination process. Please contact Nick for nomination forms and to volunteer to help on the selection committee.

### ***Animal Agriculture Alliance***

The Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA) was created in 2001 to replace the Animal Industry Foundation and to expand the scope of work to reach a broader audience with positive information about animal agriculture. The Vision is: "Feeding a hungry world through responsible animal agriculture." The Mission is "Support and promote animal agriculture practices that provide for farm animal well-being through sound science and public education." The AAA is organized as a 501(c,3) tax-exempt organization, and builds on the successes of the Animal Industry Foundation to mobilize broad-based support for its mission. More details about the AAA and the summit can be found by visiting the Internet site: [www.animalagalliance.org](http://www.animalagalliance.org) or call 703-562-5160.